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HB 490

MT Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony in favor of HB 490
3/28/2011

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

In 1986, my wife and I visited a site in the foothills of southeastern France where the Ancient Venetians practiced human sacrifice. This particular place consisted of an area where a large rock outcrop of exposed bedrock protruded to the surface. Amongst the outcrop were carved out recesses in the shape of a human body which varied in size from that of adults all the way down to small infants. The participants were laid in these recesses where their lives were taken. Small streams were carved out in the rock from each of these recesses that led down to a bowl shape in the rock where the blood of the victims was collected for some purpose (I have photos of the site).

As I stood in that place, I could only imagine the struggles and screams of the victims as their lives were taken away as an offering to a Venetian god(s). It is an experience I will never forget and is one of the things that motivates me to speak out against the killing of innocent human beings as in the case of those sacrificed today in our culture.

I don't know if you are aware of the roots of the modern day abortion movement in the world. It has to do with eugenics. The modern idea of eugenics was first formulated by Sir Francis Galton in 1883 who happened to be a cousin of Charles Darwin. Eugenics continued to grow in acceptance and in popularity until WWII when Hitler's "Final Solution" came to light and the movement quietly took a back seat.

At its peak of popularity, in the early 20th century, eugenics was supported by many prominent people including Winston Churchill, Margaret Sanger, H.G. Wells, Theodore Roosevelt, George Bernard Shaw, John Maynard Keynes, Linus Pauling, Alexander Graham Bell and Adolph Hitler. Eugenics was studied at colleges and universities and received funding from many sources. Sterilization of certain groups of "undesirable" persons took place in several countries.

As an advocate of birth control and the eugenics movement, Margaret Sanger founded the American Birth Control League in 1921 which later became Planned Parenthood in 1942. In 1926, Margaret gave a lecture to the Women's Auxiliary of the Klu Klux Klan in Silver Lake, New Jersey. Her talk was well received and resulted in speaking invitations from similar groups. To her credit, Margaret Sanger spoke out against active euthanasia for the unfit and was also against abortion. However, she was a proponent of the use of birth control in achieving eugenic goals, and wrote that "*The campaign for birth control is not merely of eugenic value, but is practically identical with the final aims of eugenics*".

Both the American and German eugenics movements identified people as having either hereditary value or inferior qualities. Programs were established to purify the race of degenerate or genetically inferior groups of people. Sterilization and birth control were part of the plan. Victims of racism typically included Jews, Gypsies, Blacks, Native Americans and other minorities. Some American states sterilized "imbeciles" for much of the 20th century. The U.S. Supreme court even ruled in 1927 (Buck v. Bell) that the state of Virginia could sterilize those it saw as unfit. Between 1907 and 1963, 63,000 people were forcibly sterilized under eugenic legislation in the United States.

Today Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortion services in the country. Planned Parenthood locates a significantly higher percentage of clinics in minority neighborhoods as opposed to

white communities. African Americans make up approximately 12% of the population in the United States, however they comprise 35% of abortions performed in America. The impact of abortion in the African-American community has been referred to as the "Darfur of America". Is this a veiled form of eugenics? I'll let you decide.

Eugenics and abortion are a national tragedy. Yes there are women and children in poverty due to situations beyond their control, but the taking of the life of a little ones who cannot defend themselves does not justify this barbaric practice. We have better solutions to the problems of this world than to justify something that is just plain wrong.

Abortion as a much different than throwing children into a volcano in order to appease the gods or the Venetian practice of human sacrifice. It is time to end this practice in Montana. Please pass HB 490 out of committee and encourage your colleagues to support this bill.

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Sources of Information: Wikipedia.org (Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, Eugenics), and blackgenocide.org.